

SPAM Biking events discussion notes

1. Erlestoke 12 replacement

1.1. Date:

- Proposed as 19/20th May.
- Weekend earlier than last year; will not clash with other XC races/events currently on the calendar (and Rob Rowe is available!!).
- Date tbc with possible venue (below).

1.2. Fonthill Estate report:

- Fonthill Estate is located just south of the A303 about 3 or 4 miles east from the A350/A303 junction – 12 miles / 15mins out of Warminster; handy enough to most!
- Good catchment area for riders – Gorrick type crowd, south coast, south west etc
- Taken from the Fonthill Est website: *“Ten thousand acres of outstanding beauty in the heart of Wiltshire”* and continues *“The Forestry on Fonthill Estate consists of 988 hectares with 718 hectares on Great Ridge and 270 hectares of Home Woods. Broad leaved crops are managed for nature conservation and to maintain the landscape. Coniferous crops are managed commercially but sensitively.*
- Possibility of SPAM adding to the outstanding beauty and aiding the conservation.....Mark Wadman to advise.
- Questions:
 - Ease of making a 7 / 8 mile track?
 - Anything existing? (Orienteering is mentioned on the Fonthill website)
 - Cost to SPAM?
 - Estate charge for use?
 - Would the estate be willing to help in construction?
 - Facilities; car-park, camping, water (drinking/bikewash), toilets
 - Club members commitment, dig-days/ trail construction etc
 - Access to track/Estate woodland away from events for SPAM members?

1.3. Other locations:

- Black Canon Collective, Longleat. Keen to help out where appropriate. They are pursuing a lease of a larger 200 acre plot to add to the ‘Allotment’ DH track area they already have. It sounds like they aspire to have a xc track (Russell Burton of many xc track design fame working with them) of about 6 miles that will be able to be used by others (us, Southern XC etc) to run events, didn’t sound like putting on events (apart for their own members) was on the agenda. BCC have nothing firmly planned, so unlikely to be able to use them this year.
- Perham Down – ruled out for the “Blast” thinking that it would be difficult to make a longer 15 mile loop. However, could it lend itself to a shorter course more akin to the Erlestoke12 length - extension to the Southern XC course used last year?
- Worth pursuing Erlestoke any further? Any change of heart from the MoD/Landmarc.

2. Other SPAM Events

2.1. Blast Autumn event

- Cancelled in 2011 due to restrictions over the use of Erlestoke.
- Try and stick with previous format:
 - 20Km distance, multi-lap;
 - Pursue Erlestoke as venue;
 - Fonthill?
 - Others?

2.2. New event

- Long distance Imber Perimeter Path Randonee ride based out of West Lavington.
- Possible date of Easter Saturday, 7th April 2012 (Imber ranges open)

2.3. Winter Challenge

- Is continued use of HMS Arthur secure?
- Try and return to 1st weekend after New Year; next year will be Sunday 6th January 2013 (or Sunday 30th December 2012 might also be good!)

3. Other local events for possible support

3.1. Super Enduro @ Perham Down

- <http://www.superenduro.co.uk/>; email: racing@superenduro.co.uk
- Contact made via Landmarc by a Carlos Perez asking for volunteers/assistance to this prospective event for 2012.
- Race format consists of single or team entrants with racing over a number of timed special stages with time constrained linking stages. Points awarded for various aspects; points make prizes!
- He ran one trial event last year in the Aldershot area; STW thread had mixed reviews; mainly due to lack of marshals & track marking it would appear – hence trying to get help I guess!
- Planning 3 races for 2012: FoD, Perham Down and Aldershot I assume – no dates on website.
- Do we want to be involved somehow?

3.2. EWE - England Wales England (<http://www.aidanharding.com/ewe/>)

- Crazy long distance trail race through....England, Wales & England. Clue in the title!
- Looking for support from 'locals' to pin together a track. Think they are using the Quantocks – we could try and drag the route east slightly. It's an open forum for suggestions presently on his website.
- Could we try and sort out a route and get the SPAM name in there somewhere?
- Obviously totally different type of event; scoping out, riding, mapping – not marking out, marshalling & organising.

3.3. Spirt Hill Enduro – (<http://www.eventslogicuk.com/>)

- Organiser appears to be more aimed at Tri' events and running (trail running race on the same days)
- 2 events planned - 17/03/12 & 4/11/12; 2hr & 4hr enduro.
- Do we want to be involved somehow?